

Law 5224/2025 (A' 142) "Establishment of a Legal Entity under Public Law under the name 'Greek Orthodox Sacred Royal Autonomous Monastery of the Holy and God-Trodden Mount Sinai in Greece', regulations on matters under the competence of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, enhancing security in higher education institutions, provisions on sports, granting of a lifetime pension to literary figures and artists for the year 2025, and other provisions"

CHAPTER VI

MATTERS RELATING TO THE CLERGY CANDIDATE APPRENTICESHIP SCHOOLS

Article 38

Apprenticeship Diploma-Clerical Studies at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship-Amendment of paragraph 4 of article 245 and addition of article 240A to Law 4823/2021

1. In paragraph 4 of article 245 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), the words "as of 1.1.2026" are replaced by the words "as of 1.1.2027", and paragraph 4 is amended as follows:

"4. Paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 140 shall apply as of January 1, 2027."

2. A new Article 240A is added to Law 4823/2021, as follows:

"Article

Provision concerning the enrolment of clerics at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools

1. Those who have been ordained by December 31, 2026 and hold a diploma from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A'14), a General Ecclesiastical High School under this Law, a General High School, or holders of a diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent secondary education qualification from Greece or abroad, are entitled to participate in the admission process for students to the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, as provided for in article 145 of this Law. The number of students for the clerics referred to in the first sentence is determined in accordance with the procedure set out in point (a) of paragraph 3 of article 145 and may exceed the annual number of admitted students. For the clerics referred to in the first sentence, the place where their apprenticeship is conducted, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of article 143, is considered to be their service in the permanent position to which they were appointed. By decision of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, they may be permitted to take distance learning, either synchronous or asynchronous, for specific or all theoretical courses of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School in which they are enrolled.
2. Provided that the students, by December 31, 2026, are ordained or appointed during their second year of study to a vacant permanent position of a deacon, parish priest or preacher under paragraph 3 of article 335, or article 347, or article 348 of Law 4957/2022 (A' 141), they may continue their studies at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship School, and the place of their apprenticeship shall be deemed to be the place of service in the permanent position to which they were appointed.

Article 39

Military deferment for Students of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools- Amendment to point (b) of paragraph 1 of article 18 of Law 3421/2005

At the end of point (b) of paragraph 1 of article 18 of Law 3421/2005 (A' 302), concerning the military deferment for students in secondary and tertiary education, the words "or the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools" are added, and paragraph 1 is amended as follows:

"1. Enlistment in the Armed Forces is deferred for those who, on the date they are required to enlist, are:

- a. Students at High Schools, Second Chance Schools, or Special Education Middle Schools,
- b. Students at Vocational Training Institutes, secondary education schools, evening high schools, students in the "Post-High School Year-Apprenticeship Class" at Vocational High Schools, Vocational Training Schools, or the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools,
- c. Enrolled in a college or university for undergraduate studies or for a master's degree in a specialized field,
- d. Enrolled to a doctoral degree,
- e. Students at Post-Secondary Education Centers established in Greece and cooperating with recognized higher education institutions abroad.

Article 40

Attendance at Educational Programs of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools by Married Clerics – Amendment to Paragraph 2 of article 143 of Law 4823/2021

In paragraph 2 of article 143 of Law 4823/2021 (A'136), concerning the educational programs of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, a new second sentence is added, and paragraph 2 is amended as follows:

"2. the theoretical courses include: a) common compulsory courses relating to the principles of the rule of law, the operations of the Public Administration and the exercise of administrative duties within parishes, b) common compulsory courses relating to the liturgical work of the spiritual religious minister and the performance of priestly duties, c) elective courses relating to the teaching role of the religious minister as a pastor, which may vary among the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools as regards the title, content, or teaching hours, without, however, altering the total number of teaching hours of the curriculum. Married students may attend the courses referred to in the previous paragraph through distance learning. The educational and teaching material for the theoretical courses of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools is developed by the Institute of Educational Policy and distributed, electronically or in print, by the Institute of Computer Technology Institute and Press 'Diophantus', following the approval of the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education. If, by June 30 of each year, the preparation and distribution, for any reason, of such teaching and general educational material has not been completed by the Institute of Educational Policy for one or more courses, the Supervisory Council for Ecclesiastical Education, without any prior opinion or proposal, shall select, at its discretion, the appropriate

teaching and general educational material, which shall be distributed free of charge to the students.”

Article 41

Eligibility to study at the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools-Amendment to paragraph 1 of article 144 of Law 4823/2021

In paragraph 1 of article 144 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning the right to attend the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, the following amendments are made: a) at the end of the first sentence, the phrase “and have fulfilled their military obligations or have been legally exempted from them” is deleted, b) the second sentence is deleted and paragraph 1 is amended as follows: “1. Greek citizens who hold a diploma from a General Ecclesiastical High School under Law 3432/2006 (A' 14), a General Ecclesiastical High School under this law, a General High School, or holders of a diploma from a Vocational High School, or an equivalent from a secondary education school in Greece or abroad, who possess the qualifications to be ordained as clerics.”

Article 42

Members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff of Higher Education Institutions as teaching staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools- Amendment to paragraph 1 of article 148 of Law 4823/2021

In paragraph 1 of article 148 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning the teaching staff of the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, the following amendments are made: a) after the word “professors”, the words “and members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff” are added, b) after the words “teaching staff”, the words “and members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff” are added, and paragraph 1 is amended as follows: “1. At the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools, the following persons shall be eligible to teach the theoretical courses: professors and members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff of Higher Education Institutions, in particular those serving in Theological Schools, members of the teaching staff and members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff of the programs in priestly studies at the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, and teachers in public general or ecclesiastical secondary education who hold a master’s degree in a specialized field or a doctoral degree, and clerics who hold a permanent position as parish priests, meet the qualifications for appointment to public secondary education and hold a master’s degree in a specialized field or a doctoral degree.”

Article 43

Admission to Theological Schools and Programs of Priestly Studies of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies – Amendment to paragraph 1 of article 153 of Law 4823/2021

In paragraph 1 of article 153 of Law 4823/2021 (A' 136), concerning admission to the Theological Schools and programs of priestly studies at Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, the phrase “provided they are ordained” is added after the word “may”, and paragraph 1 is amended as follows: “1. Holders of the apprenticeship diploma from the Clergy Candidate Apprenticeship Schools may, provided they are ordained, be admitted to the Departments of Theological Schools in Greece or to the Programs of Priestly Studies of the Higher Ecclesiastical Academies, exclusively through entry examinations conducted under the supervision of the host institution.”